

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL  
25 NORTH BROADWAY  
PERU, INDIANA 46970  
July 19, 2022

Councilman Duckwall – Present  
Councilwoman Chittum – Present  
Councilman Donaldson – Present  
Councilman Wood – Present  
Councilman Wiles – Present  
Councilman Sailors – Present  
Councilman Nutt-Absent

President Duckwall called the meeting to order.

Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer. President Duckwall led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Duckwall explained the sale of Dukes Hospital several years ago and stated that when the sale happened, the Dukes Healthcare Foundation was created to disburse funds from the sale of the hospital for health-related purposes. Since 2009, the Dukes Healthcare Foundation has awarded \$4,027,000 in local grants. These grants have helped with local fire departments and other organizations.

### **MINUTES**

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the May 17, 2022 minutes. Councilman Sailors 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFERS RESSESSMENT**

The council received a request for additional appropriation from Reassessment for \$14,075 to cover the cost of 2 printers/copiers. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$14,075 from Reassessment to cover the cost of 2 new printers/copiers. Councilman Sailors 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

### **ARP**

The council received a request for additional appropriation from ARP for \$300,000 to cover the cost of culverts. Kerry Worl, Highway Superintendent stated the Council previously approved \$300,000 for culverts, which was appreciated, but there are more culverts to replace. Superintendent Worl also stated the larger culvert just purchased was \$45,000. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$300,000 from

ARP to cover the cost of new culverts. Councilman Wiles 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

### **ARP**

The council received a request for additional appropriation from ARP for \$200,000 to cover the cost of new mowers/tractors and tandem truck. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$200,000 from ARP to cover the cost of new equipment. Councilman Wiles 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

### **COUNTY GENERAL**

The council received a request for additional appropriation from County General for \$50,000. Auditor Brown explained the county is responsible for covering the cost of juvenile detention. Unfortunately, the county has in increase in juveniles arrested. In addition, when a juvenile is arrested underage and then turns the age of 18, they are required to remain in the juvenile detention center. President Duckwall explained years ago the county received funding to help offset the cost of juvenile detention, but has since been put back on the county to cover. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$50,000 to cover the cost of juvenile detention. Councilman Sailors 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

### **TRANSFER**

The Council received a request to transfer \$6,800 from flu vaccines to extra nurse part-time and extra help part-time. Auditor Brown explained Environmental Health has been trying to hire someone part-time to help cover the office while an employee is out on medical leave. Auditor Brown noted the Health Department has always included the cost of flu vaccines in their budget in the event they did not receive the grant to cover the cost. However, the Health Department has received the flu vaccines for the year and the appropriation is not needed. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the transfer of \$6,800 from flu vaccines to extra nurse part-time and extra help part-time. Councilman Sailors 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### **NURSE WAGES**

President Duckwall explained the former Health Nurse submitted her resignation a few months ago. During that time, the Budget Committee met to discuss increasing the wages, however it was still not enough to keep the Health Nurse at the county as she was offered double the current salary to leave. The Budget Committee agreed to increase the salary to \$50,000 to attract a new nurse for the department as it was proving difficult to find a qualified applicant for the wages offered. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the increase of the nurse salary to \$50,000, retroactive to June 1, 2022. Councilman Sailors 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

## **SALARY ORDINANCE UPDATE**

Auditor Brown presented salary ordinance update #6, which reflects the update to the nurse salary to \$50,000 retroactive to June 1, 2022. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve salary ordinance update #6 reflecting the update to the nurse salary to \$50,000 retroactive to June 1, 2022. Councilman Sailors 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

## **PERU LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT**

President Duckwall explained the Council needed to make a new appointment to the Peru Public Library to replace Ellen Harvey who resigned from her term early. President Duckwall stated the recommendation is to appoint Rebekah Marks, who comes highly recommended to serve. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the appointment of Rebekah Marks to the Peru Public Library. Councilman Sailors 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

## **REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE**

### **MILEAGE INCREASE**

President Duckwall stated Auditor Brown received several requests to increase the mileage rate from the current .45 per mile due to the higher than normal gas prices. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve an increase of the mileage reimbursement rate to .50 per mile effective July 19, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Councilman Sailors 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0. The Council will consider the rate for 2023 at their upcoming budget hearings.

## **COUNCIL DISCUSSION & COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Commissioner Hunt stated the Board of Commissioners have briefly discussed wages for 2023. The county is having trouble competing with private industry and feels both boards need to look at the current salaries and make necessary adjustments to retain qualified individuals. Commissioner Hunt went on to state if the county does not start competing with wages, it will not be able to retain or attract talent. The Board of Commissioners support proposed increases.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Riffle requested an update on the status of the solar project. Mr. Riffle specifically asked about plans for the county to cover the cost to taxpayers if a property sells for less than the assessed value due to a decrease in value of the solar panels. There was no update to provide as the county is still awaiting the economic information from Baker Tilly.

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Sailors 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted

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**Mary Brown**  
Miami County Auditor